

REMARKS

This reply is filed in response to the office action dated May 5, 2004.

Reconsideration of the application and the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,388,056 ("Horiuchi"). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,842,148 ("Prendergast"). Claims 2-4, 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Horiuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,412,237 ("Sahai"). Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Prendergast in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,412,237 ("Sahai"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Horiuchi appears to disclose a vibration testing system. Horiuchi, however, does not disclose, suggest, or teach every element claimed in independent claim 1 as amended. For example, Horiuchi does not disclose "receiving linear elastic input data of a structure without requiring a physical presence of the structure." Applicant notes, although the independent claims can work even with a physical presence of the structure, it is not required. Horiuchi, on the other hand, requires the physical structure to be in place for its vibration testing system to work. Without the physical structure, Horiuchi's system would not function. Accordingly, Horiuchi does not disclose, suggest, or teach every element claimed in claim 1. Sashi also does not disclose, suggest, or teach, that which Horiuchi fails to disclose, suggest, or teach. Therefore, at least for the foregoing reason, claim 1 and claims 2-15 by virtue of their dependencies, are believe to be allowable.

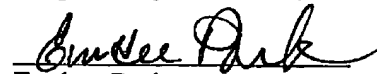
With respect to claims 16-22, neither Prendergast nor Sahai discloses, suggests, or teaches independent claim 16 as amended. For example, neither Prendergast nor Sahai discloses "without requiring physical presence of the plurality of structures." Again, at least for the foregoing reason, claim 16 and claims 17-22 by virtue of their dependencies, are believe to be allowable.

All pending claims are believed to be patentable and a favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the number provided below.

Please charge any fee due associated with this reply to Deposit Account No. 02-0393.

Date: November 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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